



mbaransk@catawba.edu

02/27/02 03:21 PM

To: jgreis@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Southern Forest Resource Assessment Comments

Mr. John Greis

Dear Mr. John Greis,

Thank you for providing the public with an opportunity to comment on the draft of the Southern Forest Resource Assessment (SFRA). I am writing to urge you to include a fuller analysis of ecological and socio-economic sustainability and to acknowledge the threat posed by the continued expansion of industrial forestry in the final version of the report.

The Draft Assessment is a good start to the process of forest management planning in southern forests. However, it needs to go further to include the many non-timber values and uses that must also be considered when planning for forest sustainability. The harvest and forest conversion trends now underway will undermine the ability of our forests to sustain these other values. We must consider more than just wood and wood products extraction. Please, let's also plan for a future where our forests provide opportunities for outdoor recreation, habitats for endangered species and other wildlife, diverse biological communities, and sources of clean water.

I hope you will help ensure that our future forests are viable systems preserving a range of values and uses, rather than simply sources of timber resources. Thank you for this opportunity to express my feelings on this important subject.

Sincerely,

Michael Baranski
PO Box 180
Woodleaf,, North Carolina 27054